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SECURITY INFORMATION

9 May 1952

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MEMORANDUM FOR: 

SUBJECT : Comment on Means Paper

1. The May 7 draft of the Means Paper is in my opinion an excellent effort. However, I should like to make the following specific comment:

(1) I note the absence of any proposed course of action in the Middle East. The situation in the Middle East at the moment is volatile and could blow up in our faces at any moment if we are not able to find a solution of the UK-Egypt problem and the UK-Iran problem. It would seem to me, therefore, that some action in that area should be proposed; certainly action is needed.

(2) PROPOSED COURSES OF ACTION:

A. The launching of such an offensive would be a good idea, I believe. However, the differences are ideological not economic or military. They represent a life and death struggle for survival. Such an offensive should be valuable for propaganda purposes and to that extent might influence the waverers away from neutralism and toward the US, but I cannot for the life of me see how it would reduce East-West tensions (a.) or create an atmosphere leading to accommodation of US/USSR problems (f.). On the other hand, I agree that it possibly could accomplish

b. through c.

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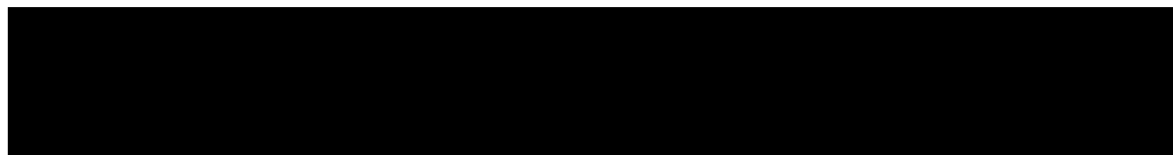
(4) E. Another advantage would be increased prestige in West Germany for ourselves and our German friends there.

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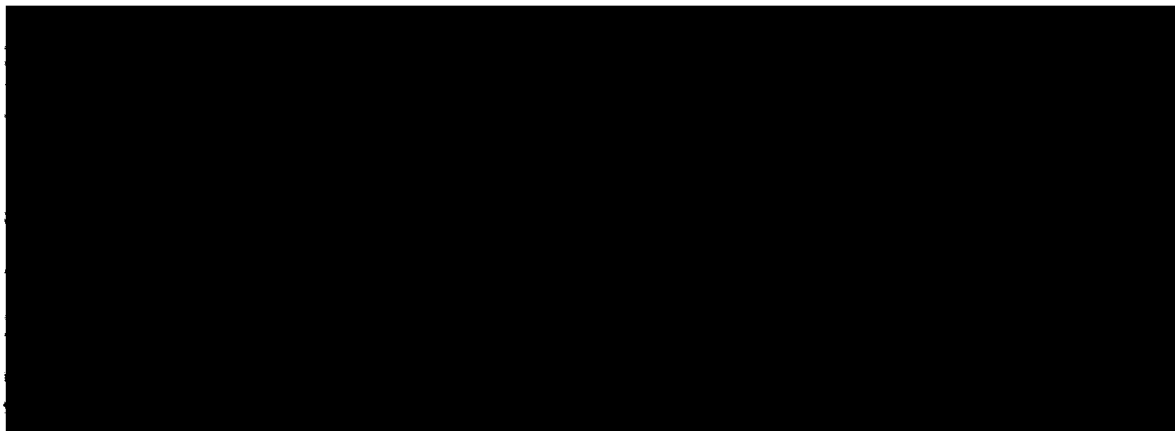
(6) G. 1 (a), a further advantage is that it would give our European allies a chance to earn their own dollars instead of having to rely upon the bounty of the US.

(7) I. It might also be desirable to mention [redacted] idea of documenting our way of life or ideology to serve as a vehicle for attack on the Soviet ideology of dialectical materialism.

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(8) K. In final paragraph, page 24, chief emphasis should, I believe, be given to Kashmir. If Kashmir blows up and there is fighting between Pakistan and India, the deterioration in that area will be tremendous.

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(10) M, 2. One of the limiting factors is going to be the difficulty in obtaining Congressional approval of access by Japan to US markets, which is going to be necessary if Japan is to develop into a self-supporting anti-Communist stronghold in the Far East.

[redacted]
Chief, Political Branch

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